Numb. 117.

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *Britiſh* Trade, &c.

From Thurſday, February 18. to Saturday, February 20. 1713.

The Decreaſe of Wines from Portugal *after the Treaty of Commerce takes place, will be nothing like what theſe Men ſuggeſt.*

Not 2000 *Ton of Wine leſs in a Year will be brought in for the Opening the* French *Trade.*

The Abſurdity of the Suggeſting, that We ſhall loſe all our Trade with Portugal, *for abating* 2000 *Ton of Wine a Year.*

The moſt notorious Falſhood of the Oppoſers detected, when they tell us, we had no Ballance from Portugal *before this Treaty.*

An Account of one Year's Export in Woollen Manufactures from England *to* Portugal, *before the ſaid Treaty.*

They are Challenged to Ballance it if they can.

WHAT a Clamour has here been about the Portugal Treaty, and to what a ſtrange length is it come, and yet what a triſle in it ſelf is the Matter in Diſpute!

The whole Queſtion turns upon this, How many Wines ſhall we take leſs from Portugal, ſuppoſing this Treaty to be made Effectual, than we take now?

ALL, ſay the Oppoſers, ALL: We ſhall take no Wines from Portugal, if the Trade with France be open; and yet we hear theſe Men in all their Clubs and Tavern Meetings ſay publickly, Give me good Net Port, I hate theſe rotgut French Wines, they are good for nothing, but to give us the Gripes; if the Trade was open, and they were both at a Price, I had rather have the Port than the French.

Now the *MERCATOR* thinks in this they ſpeak much truer, than when they ſay, we ſhall drink no Portugal Wines after the French Trade is open.

The Caſe is in ſhort this, and the *MERCATOR* appeals to indifferent Men for the Truth of it; nay, he appeals even to the Men themſelves, if they will give their Conſciences an uninterrupted liberty of Speech: The long diſuſe of French Wine has brought the whole Nation into the Uſage or Cuſtom of drinking ſtronger Wines, than they did formerly; if the ſtrong Clarets, ſuch as Pontacks, O-Brians, Graves, and ſuch like, were to be had as Cheap as Port Wine, and in ſufficient Quantity, the Caſe would be much on their Side; we ſhould drink but few Ports; but as the far greateſt Quantity of French Wine are ſmall thin Wines, and our Palate is now ſo chang'd, as that we generally drink ſtrong Wines all over Britain, it is very reaſonable to believe, we ſhall always take a great Quantity of Portugal Wines, as well to drink Net, as to mix with, and mend both the Body and the Face of the French.

And the *MERCATOR* verily believes, tho' he does not, as theſe Men do, affirm every thing, yet he believes, that we ſhall never abate 2000 Ton of Wine from Portugal after the War.

He has given his Reaſons, why the Spaniſh, Galicia, Alicant, Malaga and Barcelona Wines will abate, in the *MERCATOR*, No. But the Portugal Wines being the neareſt to the French of any other, are more certain to be in Demand, as above.

Another Reaſon is alſo taken from theſe Mens own Words. The late *Guardian*, when he was pleaſed to ſtep a little out of his way, and talk of Trade, which doubtleſs he underſtood leſs than he did other things, tells us, That French Claret will Coſt in France 25 l. per Ton; and our worthy Author, the Knight and his Pupil took up the Cudgels, and back'd it after the *Guardian* laid it down, affirming, that this would be the Price of them.

If ſo, then the Portugal Wines will have another Advantage, and indeed an Advantage equal to that, for which ſo many fooliſh Words have been made, (viz.) The odds of the Duty; for we all know, and are aſſured, the Ports will be always bought for 10 l. to 12 l. per Ton at higheſt. So that the French Wines, by theſe Peoples Account, will be at the great Diſadvantage of 15 l. per Ton odds in Price.

To take theſe People then at their own Words.

1. They had rather drink Port Wine, if the French Wines and the Port Wines were all at a Price.
2. That the French Wines ſhall always Coſt 15 l. per Ton more than the [illegible] Portugal.

How then ſhall the Treaty of Commerce cauſe the whole Quantity of the Portugal Wines to ſink, and ſtop their Importations?

If theſe People will eat their Words again, and bring the French Wines down to 8 or 10 l. per Ton, as formerly they were, and as we know no Reaſon, why they ſhould not be ſo again; then it will run againſt them another way, and they will want the Sum to make up their ridiculous Over-Ballance in the Trade: ſo that on both ſides it pinches them.

If the French Wines are Dear, the Portugal Trade ſtands, and their Clamours fall to the Ground, about diſobliging the great and formidable Portugueſe.

If the French Wines are Cheap, then their great Ballance of Trade ſuffers a blow, and they cannot make out the Sum, which they want to bring our Importati-

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ons from France to; Neither way will do their Buſineſs, and both ways Confound their Argument, ſhowing, how full of Quibbles and Abſurdities they are in all they ſay upon this Head.

We come now to a new Aſſertion of theirs, a ſhameleſs one indeed, which we have in one of their late Papers, (viz.) That we had no Ballance againſt Portugal before.

To ſay, that theſe Men have no Knowledge or Experience in the Things they write, would be the kindeſt thing, that could be ſaid of them, for then Men could only call them Fools: But alas! tho' their Ignorance is great in ſome things, it cannot be ſo monſtrouſly great in this, and therefore they muſt own, that they ſpeak falſly here, knowing it to be falſe; which, *with their Pardon for the Word*, is the worſt ſort of LYING.

The Cuſtom-houſe Books may give a true Account of the Portugal Trade, tho' they cannot of the French, becauſe there are no general Heads of Countries, under which our Goods are carried thither, as there is to France; It may be true, that, as the Inſpector-General ſays, the Dutch carry many of our Manufactures to Portugal: But we will throw them all in that; and the *MERCATOR* Challenges all theſe Men of Experience, the ſcribbling Knight and all, to ſhew the Accounts of any One Years Trade with Portugal for Twenty Years before the preſent Treaty, when we had not the Ballance of the Portugal Trade, and that a very great Ballance too.

How could it be otherwiſe? Our Export to Portugal was always very great, Our Import from thence always very ſmall: Which way then went the Ballance; Let them ſhew it if they can.

Theſe Men would inſinuate, that the Encreaſe of the Portugal Trade is owing to this wondrous Treaty, and to the great Quantity of Portugal Wines we now take: But let them but look in the Cuſtom-houſe Books to the Years before the making that Treaty, and they will be aſham'd of the pretence, or elſe others will be aſhamed for them.

To Confute this horrid Falſhood, and Expoſe it as it deſerves, the *MERCATOR* preſents them here with a Years Export to Portugal of Woollen Manufactures only, before their Treaty was made, and when they ſay our Woollen Cloths were Prohibited, (viz.) the Year 1699 to 1700.

From the Cuſtom-Houſe.

An Account of Woollen Goods Exported from England *to* Portugal *from* Chriſtmas 1699, *to* Chriſtmas 1700.

Cloths vocat
- Broad 9½ Pieces
- Long 93
- Short 60
- Spaniſh 60
- Yorkſhire 8
- Liſts 4000 Yards
- Remnants 269 l.

Bays voc.
- Double 8157
- Minik. 6002
- Single 193
- Kerſies 77

Cottons 3721 Goads
Flannel 1128 Yards
Frize 2360 Yards
Hats 1350 Doz.
Penniſtones 18 Pieces.

Hoſe voc.
- Mens Woollen 5313, ½ Doz.
- Ditto Woaſted 7887 Doz.
- Childrens Woollen 1062 Doz.
- Ditto Woaſted 352 Doz.
- Womens Woollen 350 Doz.

Stuffs, Druggets, & Cloth-Serges, 203009 l. wt.
Stuffs with Silk, 400 l. wt.
Perpets and Serges, 475877 l. wt.
Sayes 28591 l. wt.

The Reader is deſired to obſerve, that theſe Exportations to Portugal were before the Treaty, when theſe Men would have us believe the Woollen Manufacture was Prohibited.

Now let them tell us, if they are not aſham'd of it, what We Imported from Portugal that Year, that could Ballance all this, and which can juſtify the Truth of that moſt notorious Aſſertion, that we had no Ballance againſt Portugal before the Treaty now in diſpute.

There is but one Shift for them to make, (viz.) that they mean we had no Ballance before the War; but this will ſtand them in no ſtead neither; for beſides that our ordinary Export was then very near as much to Portugal, as the Year above-mentioned, our Import of Wine was not above 400 Ton a Year, which is againſt them, and will take off mightily from the Caſe.

They have aſſerted alſo, that the French do rival us in our Manufactures in other Places, but do not in Portugal: This is an unanſwerable Proof, that they will ſay and unſay at their Pleaſure: But of this hereafter.

From the Cuſtom-houſe.

Exported to France *in Three Days*, Feb. 1, 3, 4.

- 56 l. Haberdaſh.
- 34 Suits of Apparel
- 27 Stuffs
- 351 l. Wrought Leather
- 400 Goads Cotton
- 2 Beds mounted, Chairs, and Stools, &c.
- 2½ C. Clockwork, and 5 Caſes
- 4½ C. Wrought Iron
- 26 Bags Cotton Wooll
- 93 Fodder 5½ C. Lead
- 35 Ton 16 C. Copperas
- 4 Ton Kids Hair
- 1 Ton 1 C. Glue
- 2 Ton 7 C. Corants
- 10608 l. Virginia Tobacco
- * 400 qr. Barley

ADVERTISEMENT.

On Tueſday next will be publiſh'd,

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